Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

23. (new) A storage system comprising:

an array of media for storing information, the array being coupled by data paths to a communication link, and thereby to a host system, wherein the host system establishes communications with the storage system using the communication link and the data paths; and

wherein the storage system allocates the data paths based upon a data rate capability of the data paths to thereby provide a desired quality of service.

24. (new) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage system allocates individual ones of the media to individual ones of the data paths to provide the desired quality of service.

25. (new) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein a processor in the host system establishes a data path between the storage and the network connection; the data path being assigned a sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

26. (new) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different speeds of operation.

27. (new) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a data rate capability of the communication link.

28. (new) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates individual ones of the media based upon the guaranteed bandwidth.

29. (new) An storage system comprising:

an array of storage media; and

a network connection operable to connect to the array with a desired quality of service;

a plurality of data paths coupling the network connection to the array, wherein a data path between the array and the network connection is selected to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

30. (new) A method for allocating resources in a storage system, the storage system comprising an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the method comprising:

establishing a data path between the array and the network connection; the data path being selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage and data rate capability of the network connection; and

selecting ones of the array based upon the data capacity and the data rate capability of the network connection.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

32. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to accommodate a data capacity of the array.

33. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.